

**NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Hazardous Waste Management  
1001 I Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Subject:  DRAFT  FINAL  MITIGATED

Project Title: Permit by Rule for Treatment of Aqueous Waste with Cyanides

State Clearinghouse No.: 200804068

Project Location: Statewide

County: All

Project Description: This rulemaking will establish a simple and environmentally protective option for businesses using cyanides to gain authorization to treat their cyanide containing wastewaters. Health and Safety Code section 25201 requires all persons treating hazardous waste to obtain authorization for that treatment from DTSC. Existing law would supply that authorization for businesses treating cyanide-containing wastes in the form of a standardized hazardous waste facility permit. DTSC determined that treatment of wastes addressed by this rulemaking is more appropriately authorized under a simpler permit by rule. This regulation would create new permit by rule wastestream and treatment process combinations for destroying cyanides prior to using the existing permit by rule authorization to treat the waste to non-hazardous levels for sewer disposal. This grant of authorization would apply only to businesses treating their own cyanide-containing wastes on the site where they were generated.

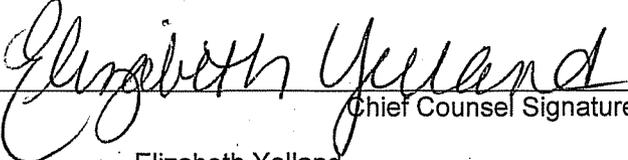
The regulations would authorize the following treatment activities:

- Cyanide treatment by six commonly used and well understood methods. After cyanide destruction or removal, the preexisting permit by rule authorization would allow further treatment to render the wastewaters suitable for sewer disposal. The waste streams would be limited to aqueous wastewaters generated by any of the following:
  - rinsing workpieces and fixtures in cyanide process solutions;
  - rinsing of pumps, hoses, and other transfer equipment used to transfer cyanide solutions;
  - onsite recycling of empty containers and spent anode bags;
  - onsite laboratories conducting analysis and testing; and
  - ion-exchange regenerate or reverse osmosis solute at facilities that have achieved zero-discharge on wastewater derived from cyanide treatment.
- Electrowinning of metals from concentrated waste process solutions prior to offsite treatment and disposal. This process, identical to the original electroplating process that is the principal business of the facility, is generally used by precious metals platers to recover gold and silver from waste plating solutions prior to offsite treatment and disposal.
- The dilution of spent process solutions into existing cyanide-bearing rinse tanks by slowly addition resulting in cyanide concentrations at rinsewater levels. The resulting dilute solutions are then required to be further treated by the allowed cyanide treatment methods in the proposed regulations. Additional requirements are proposed for businesses that choose to treat spent process solutions by slow addition to rinse tanks.

California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) is delegating its rulemaking authority to DTSC to include proposed modifications to title 27, California Code of Regulations. In addition to adopting the new waste stream and treatment process combinations, DTSC is modifying the Unified Program Consolidated Form to reflect these changes to the Unified Program.

Finding of Significant Effect on Environment: DTSC has determined that this project, as proposed, will not have a significant effect on the environment as that term is defined in Public Resources Code Section 21068. A copy of the Initial Study that supports this finding is attached.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures have been identified.

  
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Chief Counsel Signature

Elizabeth Yelland  
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Chief Counsel Name

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Chief Counsel Title

5/21/08  
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